

ANSEL ADAMS

Route 1 Box 181 CARMEL Calif.

The Librarian,
Los Angeles Public Library,
Los Angeles, California

Dear Sir:

A number of years ago (I think it was around 1939) I did a series of photographs for FORTUNE MAGAZINE of the Los Angeles Scene. The weather was bad over a rather long period and none of the pictures were very good. FORTUNE selected a few and returned the rest to me.

In moving to Carmel I had occasion to "enjoy" a thorough review of my files and I discovered the pictures which are enclosed. It occurred to me that these photographs might have some documentary value, and I feel that the logical depository for them would be the Los Angeles Museum.

I was paid by FORTUNE for the pictures used. I had prints made of all the "returns" as I felt there might be something useful among them. But they have rested in my files for many years - without apparent function.

I would like to present these photographs - prints and negatives - to the Los Angeles Public Library under the following terms and conditions:

1. They constitute a gift with no "strings" whatever attached.
2. If they are accepted, it would be ethical to mention that they were made for FORTUNE MAGAZINE by ANSEL ADAMS. I am sure FORTUNE has no possible interest in them.
3. If the Los Angeles Public Library cannot accept them - or if they feel they are not worth acquiring, perhaps they could send them on to some organization in Los Angeles who might use them.
4. If they have no value whatsoever, please dispose of them in the incinerator.
5. If they have value, please send me a receipt, listing a fair nominal value (for income tax purposes). I would imagine that they represent about \$100.00 minimum value. If you think they represent a higher value, fine! If they have no value in this "gift sense" please state. At any event, I do not want them back.
6. I entertain no further claim whatever on these pictures.

Sincerely


ANSEL ADAMS

August 1, 1962

Mr. Ansel Adams
Route 1 - Box 181
Carmel, California

Dear Mr. Adams:

We're delighted to have the collection of your photographs. Even though you say, they are not your best work, they present an interesting and useful study of the Los Angeles area in the late 30's.

After all, it would hardly be possible to have all your work equal your magnificent and breathtaking studies of the Sierra.

We have consulted our Art Department staff concerning their value and have concluded that a fair value would be one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00).

The library does not have a special form for tax purposes, but I've adapted our regular gift acknowledgement to include value. I think it will be adequate.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Helen Peterson
Department Librarian
History Department

MHP/to